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(19)



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(11)

EP 0 716 533 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
27.10.1999 Bulletin 1999/43

(51) Int Cl. H04M 3/56, H04L 12/18

(43) Date of publication A2:
12.06.1996 Bulletin 1996/24

(21) Application number: 95308638.6

(22) Date of filing: 30.11.1995

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB• Iida, Seita
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(30) Priority: 07.12.1994 JP 30350494

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(54) A gateway system and method

(57) A video conference may be held with a participant (node) being on a plain old telephone system by using a conventional private telephone system 53, a LAN 52, and a gateway system 20 that relays data, via a private branch exchange 10, to an information processing unit 54 that is on the external plain old telephone system, and to an information processing unit 100 that is connected to an extension telephone and a LAN. The gateway system comprises: a modem 81 for receiving a call from, or transmitting a call to, the plain

old telephone system, and for modulating and demodulating a signal; multiplex/demultiplex means 82 for multiplexing voice information and computer data to prepare a packet, or for demultiplexing a packet to acquire voice data and computer data separately; a LAN adaptor 75 for transmitting and receiving computer data via the LAN; dialing means 75 for making a call to an extension telephone; signal processing means 83 for coding and decoding voice data; and AD/DA conversion means 84 for performing analog-digital or digital-analog conversion on a signal.

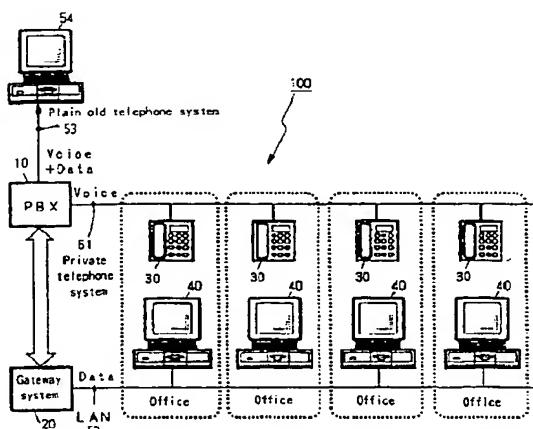


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 95 30 8638

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons B : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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